Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report 1985 - 1986

Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Board

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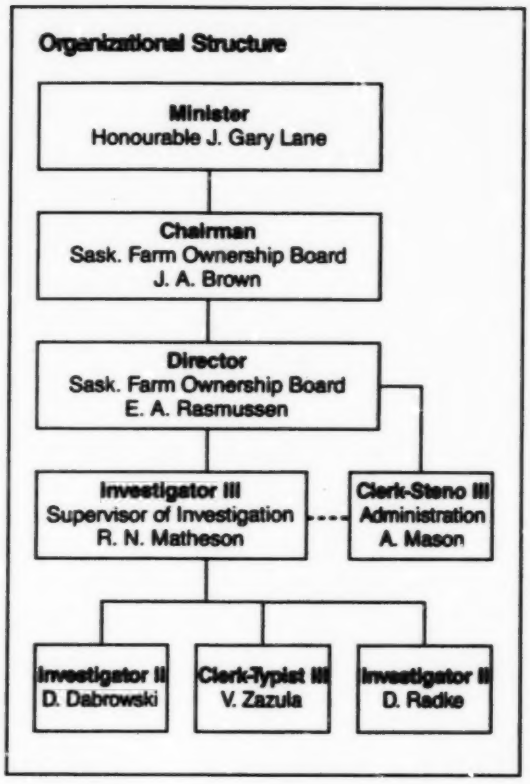
I. Organization



A. Board

The Farm Ownership Board is responsible to the member of Executive Council assigned the administration of the Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Act. In this fiscal year, that responsibility was transferred to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, from the Minister of Agriculture.

Re-appointed to the Board for a one year term were Professor Jake Brown, Chair, Darwin Lackey, Vice-Chair, Arden Body, Bill Warner, Elmer Lyke, Irene Smyth and Gerald Olson.

B. Administration

In the 1985/86 fiscal year, the investigative staff were required to process, investigate and document 456 transfers of land to non-resident individuals and 511 transfers to corporate interests. Staff were also required to investigate and process 216 individual and 174 corporate applications for exemption. In addition, the investigators were required to respond to in person or written enquiries and to monitor the activities of approximately 600 open files carried over the previous years.

C. Objectives

The Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Act, 1974, as amended, is one of the programs instituted to help improve and stabilize the economic and social environment in the province. Its primary objective is to facilitate ownership and control of Saskatchewan farmland by residents or corporations primarily engaged in the business of farming.

The responsibility of the Board in administering the Act includes making or advising on policy decisions, hearing applications for exemption, recommending amendments to the Act and regulations, issuing Orders for Divestment, and recommending prosecutions for violations of the Act's provisions.

II. Activities

A. Monitoring and Investigation

The Board monitored all changes of interest in rural land which were processed through the eight land title offices in the province. 9,306 transfers involving 2,303,483 acres were monitored. This resulted in 644 non-resident investigations and 323 corporate investigations by Board staff.

In this fiscal year, non-residents acquired title to 105,271 acres. The interests acquired resulted primarily from the special exemption provisions afforded non-resident relatives of present or past resident farmers. Thirty-one non-eligible individuals purchased 122 acres under the 10-acre provision in the fiscal year.

Table I
Comparative Statistics – Non-Resident Transfers

	Transfers	Acres	# of Files
1983-84	562	122,666	882*
1984-85	449	88,441	798*
1985-86	456	105,271	644*

* One transfer may result in several individuals acquiring an interest.

In this fiscal year, corporations acquired an interest in 176,208 acres. A majority of the land acquired was by corporations primarily involved in agricultural production. Fifty-one non-agricultural corporations purchased 222 acres under the 10-acre provision in this fiscal year.

Table II
Comparative Statistics – Corporate Transfers

	Transfers	Acres	# of Files
1983-84	650	207,820	490*
1984-85	578	189,374	523*
1985-86	511	176,208	323*

* Several transfers may involve one corporation.

B. Applications for Exemption

The Board has the authority to consider applications for exemption which, if granted, allow non-eligible individuals and corporations to have or acquire agricultural land in excess of 10 acres.

In this fiscal year, the Board considered 216 requests received from non-resident individuals involving 123,149 acres. Two hundred and two applications totalling 120,029 acres were granted. Fourteen requests totalling 3,120 acres were denied.

Table III
Comparative Statistics – Non-Resident Applications for Exemption

	# Granted	Acres	# Denied	Acres
1983-84	199	37,130	12	1,181
1984-85	153	46,665	14	9,733
1985-86	202	120,029	14	3,120

In this fiscal year, the Board considered 174 requests for exemption received from non-agricultural corporations involving 168,840 acres. One hundred and seventy-one applications totalling 152,385 acres were granted. Three requests totalling 16,455 acres were denied.

Table IV
Comparative Statistics – Corporate Applications for Exemption

	# Granted	Acres	# Denied	Acres
1983-84	145	87,894	13	2,535
1984-85	124	63,093	6	28,515
1985-86	171	152,385	3	16,455

C. Board Meetings

The Board met 13 times during this fiscal year and considered 390 applications for exemption. In addition, the Board held that 20 non-resident individuals and corporations had acquired an interest in land in violation of the Act's provisions. Compliance with the Act has been met in all cases.

At year end, 2 cases held over from the previous year remained outstanding as a result of service of Divestment Orders. One court case from a previous year was pending.

Letters of Transmittal

December 22, 1986

The Honourable F. W. Johnson
Lieutenant Governor
Province of Saskatchewan
Regina, Saskatchewan

May It Please Your Honour:

I have the pleasure to submit to your Honour the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Board for the year ending March 31, 1986.

Respectfully submitted

The Honourable Bob Andrew
Minister of Justice and
Attorney General

December 22, 1986

The Honourable Bob Andrew
Minister of Justice
and Attorney General
Province of Saskatchewan
Regina, Saskatchewan

Dear Mr. Andrew:

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Board for the year ending March 31, 1986.

Respectfully

Professor J. A. Brown
Chair